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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/DHP:CENORRIS;HGWING:LYM
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
IO:DRTOUSSAINT
IO:CENORRIS
IO/EX:SMENTER
IO/EX:KCARROLL
S/S:AWOTTO
----------290246Z 041127 /75-70
O 290149Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY PLEASE REQUEST APPOINT-
MENT TO SEE SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM TO REINFORCE IN
HIS MIND IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH USG VIEWS CANDIDACY OF
JIM GRANT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF. I PROPOSE TO
ACCOMPANY YOU ON CALL. TIME IS RUNNING OUT BEFORE UNICEF
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN MANILA WHICH BEGINS MAY 17.
IT FAR PREFERABLE FOR WALDHEIM TO QUOTE CONSULT END QUOTE
WITH BOARD AFTER WALDHEIM HAS CHOSEN GRANT, THAN FOR SUB-
JECT OF LABOUISSE'S SUCCESSOR TO COME BEFORE BOARD, HOW-
EVER INFORMALLY, WITH SYG STILL NOT HAVING MADE UP HIS
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MIND.

2. IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH SYG I SUGGEST WE MAKE FOL-
LOWING POINTS:

- A. U.S. HAS BEEN MAJOR BACKER OF UN SINCE ITS
INCEPTION.

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- B. THIS BACKING IN LONG RUN IS DEPENDENT ON GOOD WILL OF AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR BELIEF UN IS DOING

EFFECTIVE JOB.

- C. IN RECENT YEARS UN HAS COME IN FOR INCREASING DEGREE OF CRITICISM AMONG AMERICANS AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN MUCH CLOSER QUESTIONING OF UN PROGRAMS IN CONGRESS.

- D. AMONG UN PROGRAMS ONE HAS INDEED WON GREAT FAVOR WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE AND IT IS THE MOST POPULAR AND BEST KNOWN - UNICEF.

- E. USG BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL AN AMERICAN REPLACE LABOUISSE WHEN HE STEPS DOWN AND HAS PROPOSED JAMES P. GRANT, WHO HAS EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS FOR POST.

- F. PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO SYG IMPORT-ANCE THIS POSITION BEING HELD BY AN AMERICAN. ADMINIS-TRATION CAME INTO OFFICE WITH A COMMITMENT TO THE UN SYSTEM. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT'S NEW INITIATIVES ON MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE AND IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WE ARE DISTURBED TO FIND SWEDEN HAS ROUNDED UP GROUP OF NATIONS AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT TO CHALLENGE A U.S.-HELD POSITION WHICH ENJOYS HIGH CONGRESSIONAL VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT. REPLACEMENT BY NON-AMERICAN WOULD UNDERCUT USG EFFORTS. CONGRESS APPEARS LIKELY TO APPROVE PROPOSED INCREASE OF DOLLARS 30 MILLION IN FUNDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR UNDP; ADMINISTRATION HAS OTHER INCREASES UNDER CON-SIDERATION.

- G. FOR U.S. TO LOSE THE POSITION WOULD ALIENATE CONGRESS ON UNICEF; WOULD ALSO LIKELY ADVERSELY AFFECT ALL UN PROGRAMS, NOT JUST UNICEF WHICH HAS BEEN UNIQUELY POPULAR WITH U.S. PUBLIC AND HAS, IN FACT, CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO SUCH FAVOR AS UN SYSTEM MAY HOLD WITH AMERICANS.

- H. U.S. IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS CANDIDACY.

- I. SYG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT LET DECISION DRIFT AWAY FROM HIM AND INTO CONTEST AT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.

- J. HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION AT BOARD CAN ONLY CAUSE PROBLEMS AND ILL-FEELINGS, AND UNICEF AND THE UN SYSTEM WILL EMERGE THE LOSERS.

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- K. WE SEEK YOUR DECISION NOW, BEFORE THE BOARD
MEETING, AND IN FAVOR OF JIM GRANT.

- -- WE FEEL FAILURE TO MAKE DECISION MEANS YOU RISK
- LOSING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THIS AND OTHER UN
- APPOINTMENTS SHOULD UNICEF BOARD, THROUGH RESO-
- LUTION OR OTHERWISE, EXPRESS VIEWS IN ADVANCE
- OF SYG'S SELECTION.

- -- BAD PRECEDENT AND RESULTANT POLITICIZATION
- WILL RESULT.

- -- G-77 HAS MOST VOTES AND IN FUTURE TENDENCY
- IN UN APPOINTMENTS WILL BE TO EASE OUT DONOR
- COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

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- L. WE ARE ALSO DISTURBED AT NORDIC COUNTRIES
FORMALLY BANDING TOGETHER TO SHOW THAT THEY CONTRIBUTE
MORE TO UNICEF THAN THE U.S. THIS IS NOT, IN FACT, TRUE,
IF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL SOURCES, CASH AND IN KIND,
GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ARE INCLUDED ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE EQUATION. IN 1976 THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION
WAS ABOUT DOLLARS 29.296 MILLION WHEREAS THE FIVE NORDIC
STATES GAVE ABOUT DOLLARS 27.929 MILLION.

- -- IN ANY CASE, DO YOU WANT TO FORMALIZE SYSTEM
- OF BUYING CANDIDACIES BY VARIOUS BLOCS OF
- COUNTRIES? OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES COULD COMBINE
- TO DO SAME, BUT RESULTANT POLITICIZATION AND
- ILL-FEELING HARDLY IN BEST INTEREST OF EITHER
- SYG OR UN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IF SYG SUGGESTS - AS DID SWEDISH AMBASSADOR THUNBORG,
THAT DECISION BE PUT OFF UNTIL NOVEMBER:

- -- POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AFTER BOARD MEETING COULD
- ALSO PREEMPT SYG AND LEAD TO UNWANTED FIGHT.

4. IF ASKED:

- -- AT OUR LAST MEETING YOU MENTIONED YOU HAD HIGH
- POSITION TO WHICH YOU MIGHT APPOINT MICHANEK
- SHOULD U.S. PERSUADE SWEDES TO WITHDRAW. WE
- FEEL WITHDRAWAL IS UP TO YOU TO DISCUSS WITH
- SWEDEN.

- -- WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT POSITION

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- YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR MICHANEK.

- -- WHILE WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DISCUSSING
- SUBJECT WITH SWEDEN WE MIGHT BE PREPARED
- INDEPENDENTLY OF UNICEF POSITION QUESTION

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- TO SUPPORT MICHANEK FOR ANOTHER UN POST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE096779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CENORRIS;HGWING:LYM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-0652
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977043/aaaaacnz.tel
Line Count: 183
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b2d8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2726249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TAGS: AORG, APER, US, UNICEF, (GRANT, JIM)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b2d8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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